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# THE BAPTIST Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

## Baptists on scene of Brandon tornado

By William H. Perkins Jr.  
Editor

The Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Unit sprang into action on April 25, after a dangerous storm front moving through central Mississippi on the prior evening spawned at least one tornado that ripped through downtown Brandon and the surrounding area.

debris from damaged rooftops. In addition, the mass feeding operation of the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Unit was activated to provide hot meals for the tornado's victims and emergency response personnel.

The cleanup crews used chain saws and specialized equipment to remove massive tree branches that were shaken loose by the high winds and landed with great force on nearby rooftops. Some of the volunteers worked on the ground, while others perched precariously on the weakened rooftops in order to saw away the debris.

Many of the cleanup crew members moved over to the mobile kitchen to begin preparing meals after the disaster unit's 18-wheeler packed with food and commercial cooking equipment made its way from Central Hills Retreat near Kosciusko, where it is stored, to the parking lot of First Church, Brandon, on the afternoon of April 25.

Longtime volunteer John Henry of the Monterrey community in Rankin County is serving as the "Blue Cap," or supervisor. He said 1,300-1,500 meals are being prepared daily to be delivered through the American Red Cross distribution system.

"There were 23 Mississippi Baptist volunteers on Friday (April 25). We had 15 volunteers on Saturday, 14 volunteers on Sunday, and 11 volunteers on Monday. We will continue to prepare the



**TORNADO'S DAMAGE** — Members of the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Unit begin the process of removing debris from a Brandon rooftop on the morning of April 25, after a dangerous storm front moved through central Mississippi the prior evening and spawned a tornado. Downtown Brandon and the surrounding area was hit hard, and electricity remained off in parts of the city through the weekend and well into the new week. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

meals until the need is met," Henry pointed out.

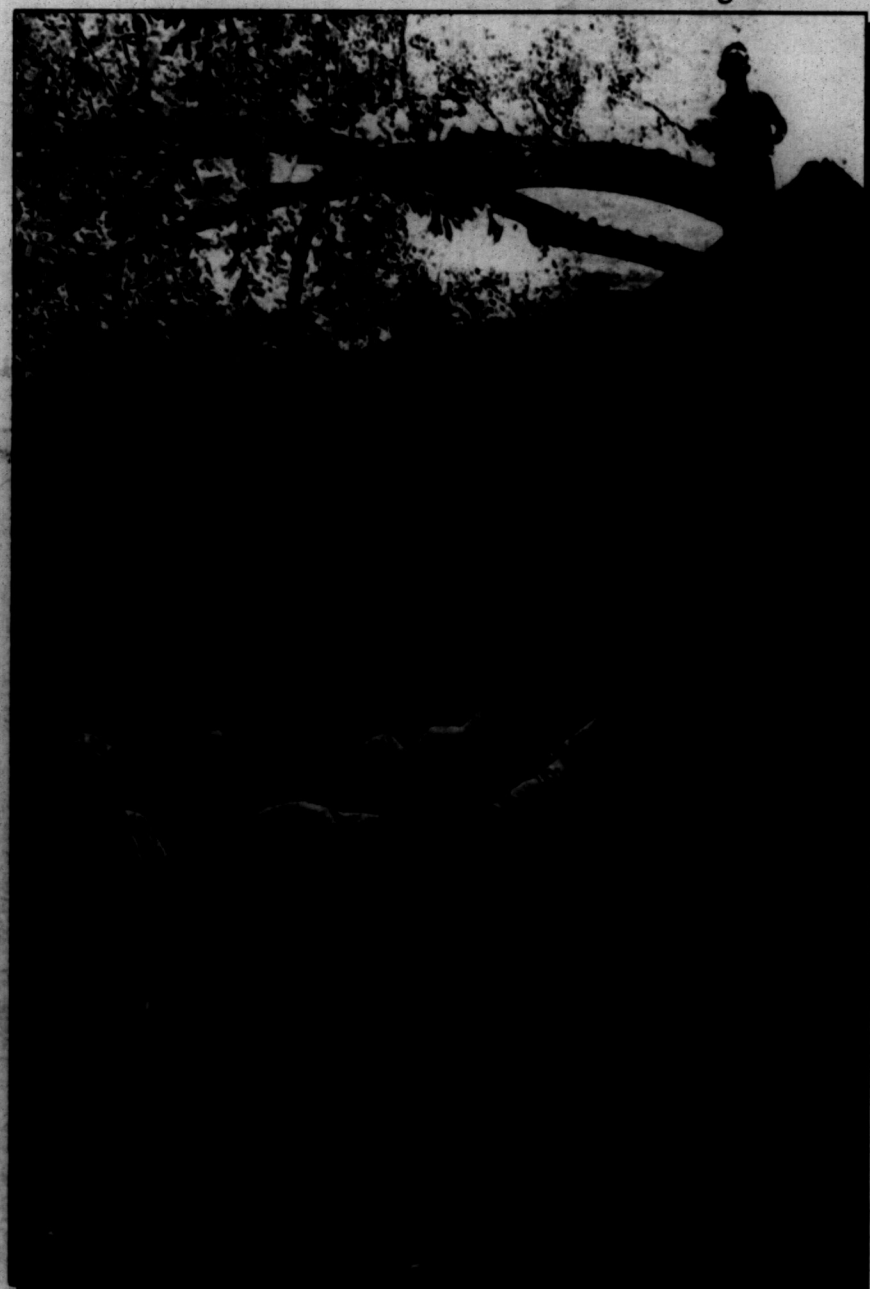
In addition, about 25 Mississippi Baptist volunteers assisted local residents in the post-tornado cleanup on April 25, Henry said.

The Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Unit is supported by gifts to the Margaret

Lackey State Mission Offering, and managed by the MBCB Men's Ministry Department. For more information on the unit's ministry, contact Didlake at MBCB, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3338 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 338. E-mail: jdidlake@mbcb.org.



**MEALS FOR VICTIMS** — The tornado that devastated portions of Brandon on the evening of April 24 prompted the activation of the mass feeding operation of the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Unit, to meet the needs of the tornado's victims and emergency response workers. Among the volunteers firing up chicken and dumplings on the afternoon of April 25 in the parking lot of First Church, Brandon, were (from left) Allen Watts, member of Ethel Church, Ethel; Donna Swarts, member of Goodwater Church, Magee; Morris Massey, member of First Church, Kosciusko; and Marlene Didlake, member of First Church, Brandon. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)



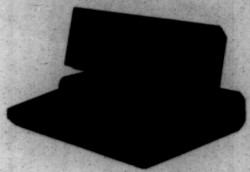
**PULLING TOGETHER** — Members of the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Relief Unit strain to clear a massive tree limb from the roof of a house in Brandon on April 25, after a tornado ripped through the city the evening before. Unit member John Henry shouts instructions from his vantage on the peak of the roof, in order to prevent further damage to the house as the limb is removed. (Photo by William H. Perkins Jr.)

There were no reports of deaths or critical injuries but many homes and hundreds of people were affected by the twister, estimated by the National Weather Service to be an F-3 tornado with winds in excess of 153 miles per hour.

Jim Didlake, director of Men's Ministry for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB), said three crews of trained Mississippi Baptist volunteers were dispatched to assist in the dangerous job of clearing away large and small



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# American birthright, madmen's weapon

The story is told of the three young boys whose teacher gave them the assignment of bringing to the next show-and-tell period one item that they felt symbolized their particular religion. The Jewish boy decided to bring a menorah. The Catholic boy settled on a crucifix. The Baptist boy chose a casserole.

Jokes aside, Baptists do like good food and we like getting together to share good food. To be fair, Baptists are certainly not alone in this category. To Americans in general, overabundant supplies of food are almost a birthright. Not many of us have felt the pangs of hunger. That makes Americans a unique people.

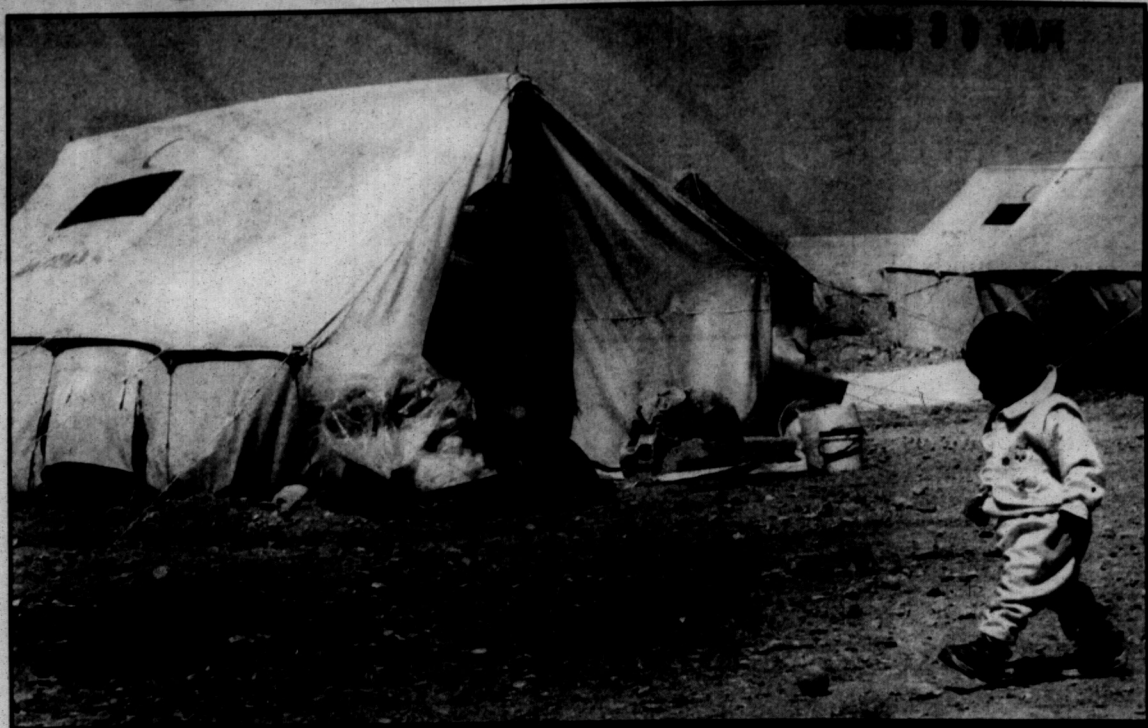
Madmen have always used food as a weapon. Such has been the case for many years in newly-liberated Iraq, where U.S. and British soldiers have found warehouses filled with undelivered relief supplies. Iraqis have been made to starve, and this in a country with the second-largest amount of proven oil reserves in the world capable of bringing in more than \$30 billion a year in revenues.

Southern Baptists have before us an opportunity to help these starving people get back on their feet. The details are as follows:

**RICHMOND, Va.** (BP and local reports) — For less than \$60, congregations can assemble a box of dry food that will feed a family of five in Iraq for about a month, in an initiative to be launched by the Southern Baptist International Mission Board (IMB) once peace is restored in the Mideast nation.

**Directions for preparing a food box:** Use only a U-Haul "small box" product (16 3/8" x 12 5/8" x 12 5/8" = 1.5 cubic feet). Same size boxes will help facilitate both bulk packing and transportation.

Begin by lining the box with a large trashcan liner to protect the contents and prevent spillage outside the box. Pack the items by quantity list below. Begin by layering the four bags of rice on one side of the bottom and the sugar and flour (standing) on the other sides. Next stack the bags of beans and lentils on top of the standing



**Iraqi refugee camp near Jordanian border**

sugar and flour bags. Lastly place the salt, tea, and powdered milk (10 - 3.2 oz. envelopes) in the remaining air space. Tie the trashcan liner and securely tape the box (making sure the box has also been securely taped on the bottom). (Total weight will be approximately 68 pounds — box capacity is 70 pounds.) One family food box will help provide food for a family of five for approximately one month.

Do not place any additional item/literature inside the box. The International Mission Board will provide state conventions with stick-on labels to be placed on the outside of the box (John 1:17 in Arabic).

- **Rice - Long Grain** 4 - 5 lb. Bags (not instant rice).
- **Flour - All Purpose** 3 - 5 lb. bags.
- **Sugar** 2 - 5 lb. bags.
- **White Navy Beans** 12 - 1 lb. bags.
- **Lentils** 4 - 1 lb. bags.
- **Iodized Salt** 2 - 26 oz. containers.
- **Loose Tea** (Lipton) 4 - 1/2 lb. boxes.
- **Powdered Milk** 10 - 3.2 oz. envelopes.

The collection in Mississippi is being handled by the Men's Ministry Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB).

Mark Lott, consultant in the MBCB Men's Ministry Department, said preparations are underway to accept the food boxes from Mississippi Baptist churches and individuals for shipment to the war-torn Middle East country.

Filled boxes should be delivered to Camp Garaywa in Clinton or the Mississippi State Fairgrounds in Jackson on May 20-21.

For more information, contact Lott at MBCB Men's Ministry Department, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3295 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 295. E-mail: mlott@mbcb.org.

Pray for this massive project, and then get involved. After what our Savior did for us, it's the least we can do for Him.

## GUEST OPINION:

### *Fighting for what counts*

By Lt. Col. John M. Young  
United States Marine Corps Reserve

I'd like to think I'm not a foxhole Christian, but I'll have to admit that I pray a lot more during war than peace. My mother started my brothers and me early in life with prayer and reading Bible stories to us. If you're not doing that with your kids, start tonight.

The Bible stories often were about the wars of the Israelites. I don't remember the details of their wars, but two things stand out. When God was for the Israelites, they won. When God wanted to punish them for turning their backs on Him, they lost. It's a simple principle. God chooses sides. He's on the side of righteousness, and He hates evil. When God's side wins, He wants the credit for the victory.

As our country edged closer to war with Saddam Hussein, I, as well as many other Christian people, began to pray. Prayer is not just a one-sided conversation. He began to direct my prayer. A great evil arose which threatened the peace and freedom of the world. I am not talking about the overwhelming majority of peaceful Muslims. The only force strong enough

to confront this force of evil is the United States of America.

God has richly blessed our nation and has chosen to do so because of our Christian heritage, but to whom much is given, much is required. I believe God truly called our nation to confront this evil.

Although we are the only superpower left on Earth, with B-2 bombers, precision-guided munitions, and all the other modern technology of warfare, God wants to bring us a victory through the prayers and faithfulness of our people. It's easy to place your faith in the military might that you can see, but God can make the difference between an "easy" victory and a "costly" victory.

God wants to bring victory in this war to rid Iraq of the evil

that has plagued it for decades with the prayer of His people. As a Marine reservist now mobilized and stationed in Kuwait, I am pleased and humbled by the overwhelming outpouring of prayer and support we received from churches back home.

Shortly before it happened, it was announced to us that our forces would soon cross the line of departure. I was deeply saddened that our nation would soon be at war and many people would soon die, although I believe this is a course God has set before us.

That night I got on my knees facing north to intercede both for our troops and the people of Iraq. God allayed my fear for innocent destruction by directing me to pray that His Spirit go forth to slay those who

should be slain and to spare those who should be spared.

I certainly do not mean to imply that God's Spirit has slain our brave troops who have now lost their lives, for even in God's mighty victories for the children of Israel, they still suffered a price as well. Freedom is never free. Some may claim that all this sounds like another medieval crusade or a Christian jihad. They would have said the same about Elijah's challenging the prophets of Baal. If some people today witnessed Elijah's contest with evil, they would be in the crowd demanding to know what gave him the right to claim his God was any better than anybody else's god, etc.

The answer was the same then as it is now. God is only on one side, and He hates evil.

May the one true God, Who created the universe and Who governs the affairs of men, bless our nation and our allies as we face the challenges of the world, and as we seek to bring freedom to those who have never known its blessing.

*Courtesy of Baptist Press.*



# Deaf, blind teens find TLW for them, too

SPARTANBURG, S.C. (BP)—The tightly twisted blonde curls topping Lee Kirby's head jiggle in rhythm to his stride as he walks back to his pew. His smile reflects the affirmation he feels after receiving the biggest ovation he's ever seen. He's not real sure what hundreds of people clapping sounds like.

Kirby, age 16, is deaf. Meringitis took his hearing at age three. He does, however, understand the smiles and the sea of nodded approvals.

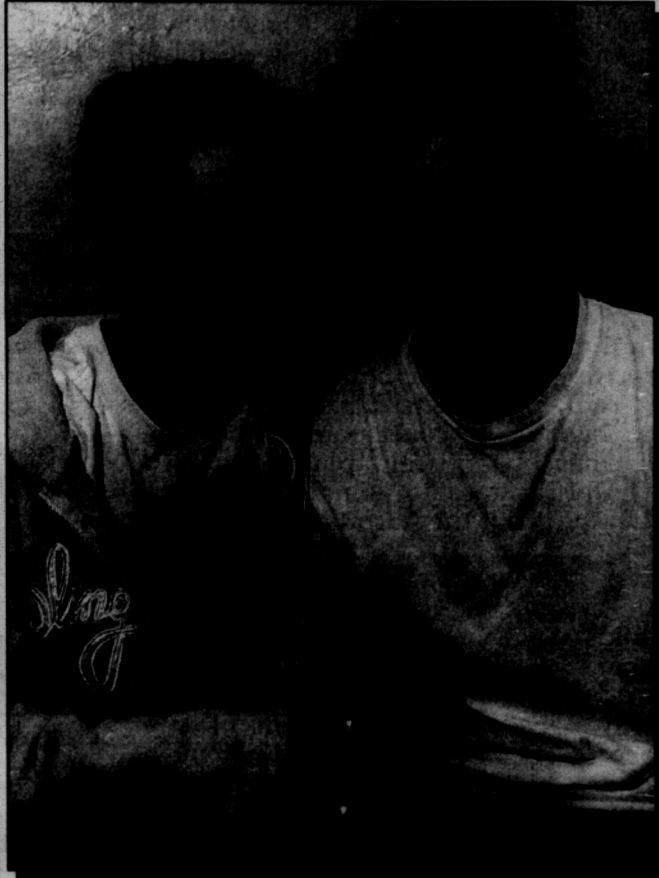
Latrell Pitts, age 17, has her wavy golden locks pulled back into a short ponytail that bounces as she takes her seat. She can't hear the applause either, but feels the same pride as Kirby.

The all-American-looking boyfriend and girlfriend have been in the same class at the South Carolina School for the Deaf and Blind (SCSDB) since kindergarten. On this particular night they've pledged to abstain from sexual relations until they marry. It's the second most important decision of their lives.

Twenty-nine of their classmates made the same commitment.

The students from SCSDB were among the more than 100 teenagers who recently received rings to remind them of their public vows of abstinence made during a True Love Waits (TLW) ceremony at First Church of Spartanburg. TLW is a biblically based abstinence program developed by LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention.

More than a million youth worldwide have made commitments to abstinence during the 10-year history of True Love Waits. Ninety-plus religious and secular organizations use True Love Waits to teach teens a biblical understanding of sex within marriage.



**NEW COMMITMENT** — Latrell Pitts (left), age 17, and Lee Kirby age 16, are both deaf and have been boyfriend and girlfriend for several years. The couple recently accepted Christ and also made a commitment to sexual purity during a True Love Waits event at the South Carolina School for the Deaf and Blind in Spartanburg, S.C. (BP photo by Kent Harville)

"A lot of times these kids from the school are overlooked and go unnoticed because of their deafness or blindness," said Seth Buckley, youth minister at First Church, Spartanburg. "With the way we did this cere-

mony, we wanted the emphasis to be on them. We want them to know we care about them."

Experiencing the type of concern and unconditional love that the First Church, Spartanburg, youth ministry extends toward the SCSDB students may be foreign to many of them. The school, located in the northwest corner of South Carolina, houses more than 300 students of all ages from around the state.

Journeys home on weekends are difficult and sometimes abusive. Parents of deaf children often struggle to communicate because their sign language skills are far below their children's skills. Deaf and blind students often feel lonely and isolated. Even if their parents attend a church, it is unlikely the church has an interpreter.

Life in dormitories on campus also can lead to isolation. The state continues to cut funding for extracurricular activities, leaving few after-class programs in which the students can be involved, according to teachers at the school. Watching television and movies becomes the activity of choice by default, and that is where the problem begins.

"They see a lot of the geared toward teenagers," said Shannon Fike, a teacher at the school and a member of First Church, Spartanburg. "The programs show a lot of sexual interaction between characters. Since their TVs don't have closed captioning, they can't read the dialogue. Having sex looks like something that all teenagers do to have fun."

"They don't understand that's not the norm because they have so little contact with teenagers outside of the school. Reality to them is what they see on TV."

Sexual intercourse on campus has escalated to the point where one teacher said that anywhere the students have an opportunity to test the limits, they will. The example of two teens having sexual contact in a lunch line near an ice machine makes the point.

Fike and Bill Spooner, also a teacher at the school and member of First Church, Spartanburg, have a passion for improving the lives of the students. Prayer was the first expression of their passion, action the second.

Spoooner developed a Christian club and initially had low attendance, but interest began picking up. Any questions regarding biblical teaching were fair game at the club and eventually questions turned to sex. The questions prompted a study on the biblical perspective of sex. Several students pledged abstinence.

## Record

"I'd heard about the Wednesday night program for youth here at First Baptist about the time we did the study," Spooner said. "I wanted to find out more. I'm not a big fan of loud music, but what I found here was several hundred teenagers truly worshipping God. Seth was also teaching about abstinence so I asked him if he'd mind if I brought some students the following week."

Buckley agreed but informed Spooner his group was nearing the end of its TLW study. The next week the youth would be signing their pledge cards committing to abstinence. Fike quickly signed on as the interpreter for the event.

Eighteen SCSDB students received Christ, including Kirby and Pitts. They said it was the most important decision of their lives. A total of 20 made pledges to abstain from sex until after marriage.

### Looking back

#### 10 years ago

In the first five months of the year, more than 4,800 Mississippi Baptists participate in a variety of activities sponsored by the Church Music Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, including the State Senior Adult Choir Festival and the State Young Musicians Choral Festival.

#### 20 years ago

The Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission presents its Distinguished Service Award to evangelist Billy Graham for his contributions in applied Christianity. "We (Southern Baptists) are now involved all over the world, not only in preaching and teaching, but also in social service and in social justice," said Graham.

#### 50 years ago

W. A. Sullivan, pastor of First Church, Natchez for 26 years, resigns after a serious continued illness. The church reluctantly receives his resignation, stipulating that he be elected pastor-emeritus and as soon as he recovers from his illness he should again serve as pastor.



MISSISSIPPI  
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THE  
SECOND  
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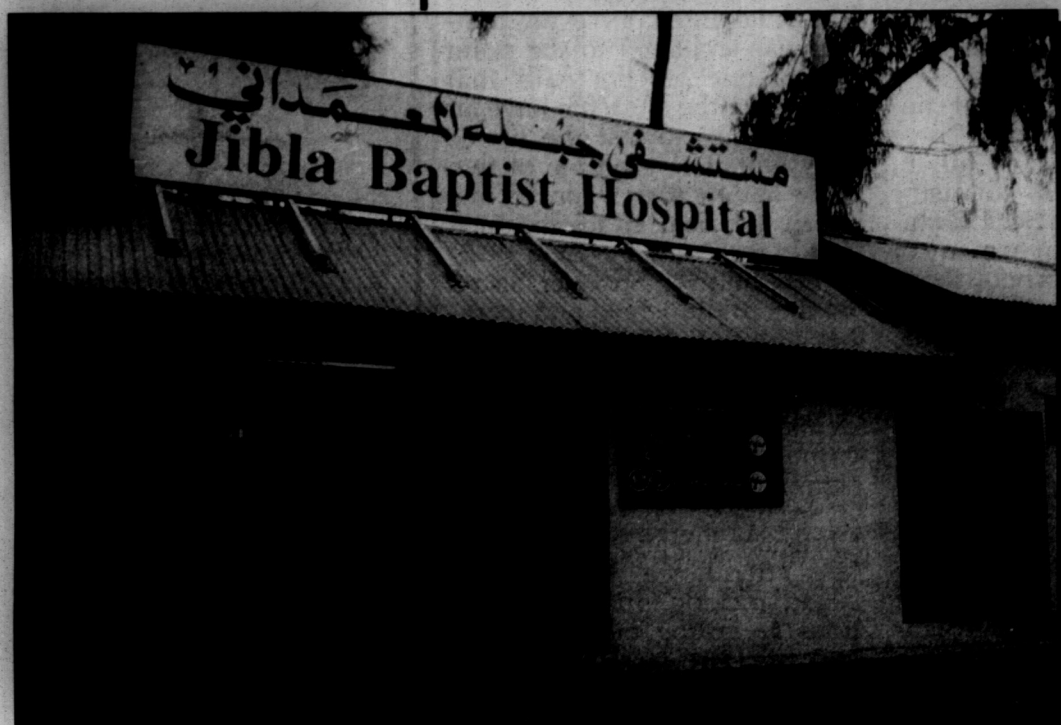
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# Yemeni man admits to missionary murders



**SITE OF TRAGEDY** — The Jibla Baptist Hospital, situated in the mountains of southwest Yemen, was the site where a lone gunman killed three Southern Baptist workers and wounded a fourth worker on Dec. 30. (BP photo)

**JIBLA, Yemen (BP)** — The Yemeni man accused of gunning down three International Mission Board (IMB) workers in a hospital testified in court he killed the Americans to defend Islam because he believed they were sterilizing Muslim women and trying to convert Muslims to Christianity.

Abed Abdul Razak Kamel, age 30, said he moved from the Yemeni capital of Sana'a to Jibla after he heard about missionaries working there at a Southern

women were visiting the hospital to get sterilized, the Associated Press said.

"This is a violation of Islam," he told the court.

An IMB spokesman told Baptist Press April 22 that any sterilization procedures at the hospital occurred only by written permission of both spouses.

Hospital administrator William Koehn of Kansas, physician Martha Myers of Alabama, and purchasing manager Kathleen Gariety of

Baptist-run hospital, the Associated Press reported April 21.

"I acted out of a religious duty... and in revenge from those who converted Muslims from their religion and made them unbelievers," Kamel, who is suspected of links to Al Qaeda, said as his trial opened April 20.

"They were also committing another corruption," he said, claiming he had learned that

Wisconsin were killed Dec. 30 when Kamel walked into the hospital with a semiautomatic

weapon under his clothes and opened fire. Pharmacist Don Caswell of Texas was wounded in the abdomen.

Kamel was arrested the day of the shooting. He testified in

court that he coordinated the attack with Ali al-Jarallah, another Muslim extremist charged with gunning down a Yemeni leftist politician two days before Kamel's Jibla hospital attack, according to the Associated Press.

In court, Kamel said he had been planning the attack 18 months, scouting out the hospital by visiting

there and asking questions about its work. Kamel said he consulted with al-Jarallah often regarding the attack.

"We agreed. (Al-Jarallah) would kill seculars, and I would target Christians," Kamel said.

Prosecutor Ibrahim al-Delemi asked for the death penalty, and Kamel's next court appearance was set for April 30.

Al-Jarallah, a member of Yemen's militant Islamic Reform Party, refused to answer questions at his trial when it opened April 20 in Sana'a. He called his trial "a farce, a legal scandal." Yemeni security officials believe both suspects belong to a terrorist cell linked to Al Qaeda, the Associated Press reported.

Audiotapes with the voice of Al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden were seized by authorities at Kamel's house.

The IMB transferred control of the hospital to a local charity founded by Yemeni Foreign Minister Abu Bakr al-Kerbi, who also is a Canadian-trained

doctor. The hospital is now headed by a Yemeni Health Ministry official, and its staff continues to include American and other foreign doctors in a non-Southern Baptist setting.



**Myers**



**Gariety**



**Koehn**



**Caswell**

## Min. Wives to hear Liz Curtis Higgs

The 2003 Southern Baptist Ministers' Wives Conference will feature Christian humorist Liz Curtis Higgs at the Jewels in the Desert luncheon at 11:30 a.m. on June 17 in the ballroom of the Phoenix Civic Plaza. The conference is held each year during the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention.

In addition to her speaking schedule, Higgs is a popular author has sold over a million copies of her books which include, *Bad Girls of the Bible*, and *One Size Fits All and Other Fables*.

Tickets are \$10 per person. Checks should be made payable to SBC Ministers' Wives Conference and mailed to the recording secretary/treasurer, Tammy Litton, at 1627 Silver Creek Drive, Saraland, AL 36571. Tickets orders must be postmarked by May 15. A stamped, self-addressed envelope is required. Tickets will be mailed after May 1.

## Missionaries dispute Rankin call for resignation

**ARKADELPHIA, Ark. (ABP)** — "We cannot resign. We are guilty of no misconduct or false teaching and have been accused of none," missionaries Rick and Nancy Dill told International Mission Board (IMB) President Jerry Rankin in a letter April 18.

The Dills, the first Southern Baptist workers to enter East Germany after the fall of the Berlin Wall, are among 31 missionaries who recently received letters from Rankin about their refusal to sign an affirmation of the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message (BFM). Rankin announced a May 5 deadline to either sign, resign, or have their missionary service terminated at the May 6-8 meeting of IMB trustees.

The Dills, whose situation was the subject of a recent USA Today story, currently are on a leave of absence and serving as missionaries-in-residence at Ouachita Baptist University. That they received the letter from Rankin was no surprise to the Dills. Earlier they received a phone call from IMB Executive Vice President Avery Willis informing them they could not return to their place of service in Germany without signing the faith statement as requested by Rankin last year.

Willis insisted this would not constitute "termination," however. But Rankin's latest letter makes it crystal clear: "If I do not hear from you regarding one of these options by May 5, 2003, I will be recommending that the board take action to terminate your service in their May meeting."

Rankin told the Dills and other missionaries that failure to sign the controversial faith statement or to resign on their own initiative would "undermine the integrity and credibility of the IMB."

The Dills asked Rankin why that is so. "The answer is simple," they then wrote. "It is not possible with integrity to terminate missionaries who are guilty of nothing but years of faithful service and having a deep sense of love for God's Word."

Rankin has insisted that missionaries must sign an affirmation of the revised faith statement to remain "accountable to Southern Baptists."



**Rick Dill**



**Nancy Dill**

"To which Southern Baptists are we being accountable?" the Dills asked in their response to Rankin.

"The truth is that Southern Baptists have not required missionaries to sign the Baptist Faith and Message 2000. Alabama, our home state, acknowledged all three statements of faith (versions of the Baptist Faith and Message). Texas, our partner state for the last three years, rejected the 2000 version outright. ... Even the trustees of the IMB have not required missionaries to sign. To whom are we not acting accountable? Who is actually requiring us to sign?"

Rankin has said some non-signing missionaries are guilty of advocating "positions contrary to what Southern Baptists confess to believe." Again, the Dills asked, what positions have they held that are contrary to Southern Baptist beliefs?

"Is it that we believe God's word must be supreme in our lives and that it is wrong to make a man-written document the test for our faith and calling?" they asked Rankin.

"Or would Southern Baptists disagree that Christ is Lord of Scripture and that we must understand the word of God first and foremost through his love, his teaching, his death and his resurrection?"

The only possible point of contention, they report, is their belief "that God can call whomever he chooses to serve wherever, whenever and however he so chooses." That runs counter to the new BFM's declaration that women may not serve as senior pastors.

"Is a different understanding of Scripture in this matter really grounds for dismissal?" they asked Rankin.

Critics of the SBC's revised faith statement have faulted it for placing greater authority in the Bible than in Jesus, for demanding that wives "submit" to their husbands, for mandating that churches not hire women as pastors, and for weakening the traditional Baptist understanding of the autonomy of the local church and the priesthood of all believers.

Critics also have charged the faith statement is being used more like a mandatory creed than a voluntary statement of shared beliefs. IMB spokesman Mark Kelly said the missions agency has no response to the Dills' letter other than what had been reported previously in a news release about the deadline for missionaries to sign or lose employment.



AN OPEN LETTER TO  
MR. WESLEY BRITT,  
OUTSTANDING FOOTBALL  
PLAYER  
UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

Dear Wesley,

I just had to sit down and write you a letter to thank you and express my admiration and deepest appreciation to you. As you might guess, since I am writing from a Mississippi perspective, that I am not a 'Bama fan! Never have been! Doubt that I ever will be, but please put me down on the list as a Wesley Britt fan!

When I read that you had been chosen as a pre-season All-American by Playboy Magazine and that along with that honor comes all kinds of pre-season hoopla, trips, gifts, and honors, and that you, upon being contacted, said, "Thanks, but no thanks!" I almost shouted! I was blessed, impressed, and just had to express my admiration and appreciation for you.

According to the news, you made your decision based on the fact that the Playboy philosophy just did not fit into your structure of faith or lifestyle. Without a lot of fanfare and



# Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

somewhat "low-key," and without accusing anyone else for what they might do, you simply said it was not the thing for you. Well, God bless you young man, for both doing what is right for you and for doing what is right!

If you had accepted the award and listened to the accolades bestowed on you, I doubt that anyone would have said anything negative towards you or about you. In fact, to show you how strange our world is, you probably will get more negative press and considerably more criticism for not going along with the honor, but that is fine. I just want you to know that I, along with a ton of Mississippi Baptist folks just across the border, am applauding you for your courage and your faithfulness.

I can only imagine that your

mother must be one of the proudest ladies in the entire nation, and well she should be. Her son was chosen to be an All-American and then he chose to not be chosen by the chooser! By your actions, you have taught young people and grown folks alike some valuable lessons. For one thing, you have reminded us that it takes genuine faith and great courage to do what you feel is right. Like Daniel of old, you purposed in your heart not to be defiled by this world, but to do what you knew God would have you do.

The second thing of which you have reminded us is that like most of sin's gifts, they are corrupted prizes wrapped in glitter. Selected as a pre-season All-American, let's just suppose that you quietly accepted and agreed and then the magazine comes out and you show

the book to family, friends, folks at church, and people at school. It's fine for them and you to have this magazine because your picture and your name recognition are there. The magazine defends itself by saying that they treat the young men and the process of selection with class and dignity. While that may be true, how can they treat the young men with a high level of respect and at the same time use and exploit the young women?

The third truth remembered, to me, is that the honor of this world can be dishonor before God. The reverse is also true. It is possible to find dishonor in this world that is truly honor before God. Does the NFL have plans for Wesley Britt in the future? Probably so, but more important is the question, does God have plans for Wesley in the future? I am convinced He does!

I hope you have a great season this next year and in every All-American selection poll you are recognized, that you play superbly (except when you are playing against Mississippi teams!) and that you stay close to the Lord as you play, work, and serve Him.

Thank you for your tremendous example!

## Velasquez criticized for sexy role in new movie

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — A new movie starring contemporary Christian music's Jaci Velasquez has received thumbs down from two family oriented websites for its moral content and the scenes in which the singer appears.

The movie, a comedy called Chasing Papi, is rated PG and was released April 16 by 20th Century Fox. The plot involves three single women — Cici, Lorena, and Patricia — who think they have found the perfect man, Tomas.

After discovering that he has been dating all three simultaneously, each woman tries to get him to pick her.

Three scenes involving Velasquez, who plays Patricia, have received the most criticism.

In one scene, all three women end up at Tomas' house without knowing of the other's presence. Then, according to Screenit.com, the three women "all walk out from different rooms in Tomas' place, hoping to surprise him, but instead see each other. Each is wearing lingerie he bought them...." Tomas, it turns out, isn't at home.

In a later scene, Cici "tears or otherwise modifies Lorena and Patricia's clothing to make them look sexier for a dance number...." Screenit.com reports. In a third scene, "all three women sleep on the bed" with an unconscious Tomas, according to

Focus on the Family's Plugged In Film Reviews organization.

"There's no other way to interpret the implications of this 'lingerie scene' as anything other than sexual," wrote Steven Issac of Plugged In Film Reviews. "Women simply don't bounce into a man's bedroom wearing trench coats and little else for any purpose other than sex. Don't let Jaci's starring role mislead your family. Chase teens and tweens away from Papi."

Another family movie reviewer, Alan Boyer of Preview Family Movie & TV Review, gave the movie a "1 1/2" rating on the acceptability scale which, according to the website's criteria, means the movie is "quite objectionable."

"Both the moral content and the entertainment value of this film are low; you would be better off not 'Chasing Papi,'" he wrote.

A third family-oriented movie review website, Movieguide.org, was less critical than the aforementioned family websites but did advise "caution, especially for parents of the teenagers who might be attracted to this movie."

During her career Velasquez, age 23, has recorded 16 No. 1 songs in the Christian and Latino market. She won the 1999 Dove Award for female vocalist of the year.



Velasquez

Velasquez, who recently released her latest album Unspoken, and whose single, You're My God, is climbing the Christian charts, addressed the criticism in a letter to fans on her website.

"I hear that there are many questions about the movie, especially now since people are seeing the trailer or previews out in theaters," she wrote. "To put your minds at rest, No I haven't left my personal faith in God, and I don't ever intend to."

She added that "by the grace and power of God" she was able to witness to those on the movie set. She said she was "surprised" by the content of the trailer, which includes clips from some of the controversial scenes.

"The trailer doesn't really tell the complete story," she said. "... I am grateful for the production company, because they allowed me to change and edit several scenes that I was uncomfortable doing because of my beliefs."

"The process of deciding to enter Hollywood was a very thoughtful, prayerful one. I constantly consulted my family and pastor to make sure I was answering my calling."

The controversy has led to much discussion by fans on unofficial Velasquez website forums. At one website, alwaysjaci.com, one fan wrote, "I don't think I'll see it after what I saw in the preview. No offense to Jaci or anything, I just don't feel right about it."

A fan on alwaysjaci.com was critical of the way Velasquez dresses on and off screen. "It's acceptable by the worlds [sic] standards to dress like that, but that doesn't mean it's right. I think women should dress modestly, and not in a way that might encourage guys to lust."

The movie opened in only 585 theaters — many movies open in more than 2,000 theaters — and finished 11th its first weekend with a gross of \$2,404,557.

The movie did better in average gross per theater, finishing fourth among the top 11 movies for the week.

## SARS spread delays BWA conference

WASHINGTON, D.C. (BP) — Citing concerns about SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome) in Hong Kong, the Baptist World Alliance (BWA) has moved its 14th Baptist Youth World Conference forward from July 16-20 at the Hong Kong Convention Center to Aug. 4-8, 2004.

"We had hoped that this would not be necessary," said Emmett Dunn, director of the BWA youth department. He said hotels, travel agents and the convention center have promised to hold current rates at their present levels.

To those who have registered for the conference, the BWA issued guidelines stating:

"If you have already paid your registration fees to the BWA or to one of the official BWA travel agents, the BWA asks that you consider leaving your deposits to guarantee your place. However, if you desire, the BWA will refund your registration fees. Your travel agent will advise you on other payments already made. If you have booked directly with the airlines and other agents, please check with them."

BWA General Secretary Denton Lotz asked Baptists to begin building support for the 2004 conference. "All of our plans for this conference will be fulfilled," Lotz said, "and we expect a dynamic program and thousands of people from around the world to attend. We urge you to pray for the leaders of the youth department and for Hong Kong Baptists who have invested a tremendous amount of time, money, prayer and planning."



## JUST FOR THE RECORD

**Union Hall Church, Brookhaven**, recently celebrated their 150 year anniversary. Pictured (from left) are Talmadge Smith presenting a certificate to Billy Joe Deer, pastor, and Carl Dyess.



Smith, Deer, and Dyess

**Friendship Church, Aberdeen**, will present Focus on the Family with Duane and Iris Blue, First Church, Woodstock, Ga., ambassadors at large for the NAMB, on May 4 at 7 a.m., 11 a.m., and 6 p.m. Todd Bowen is pastor.

and state Bible Drills. Pictured (from left) are Jamie Griffin, Heather James, Megan Peebles, and Hay Ley Smith. Their leaders are Margaret Peebles and Judy Griffin.

**Cruger Church, Cruger**, will host Family Day on May 4 at 10 a.m. at the Cruger/Tchula school grounds. Hamburgers and hot dogs will be served. For more information, call (662) 453-0009.

**Little Bahalia Church, Wesson**, will celebrate Senior Adult Day and Old Fashion Sunday on May 4. Sunday School begins at 9:45 a.m. with services at 10:30 a.m. and dinner will be served. James A. Case is pastor.

**Pearson Church, Pearl**, will hold a dedication service of their new fellowship hall, a gift by L. W. Bright, on May 4 at 10:25 a.m. Lunch will be served. For more information, call (601) 939-3618.

**Spring Hill Church, Waterford**, held a groundbreaking service for a multi-

purpose facility on April 13. Existing facilities are scheduled for renovation this summer. Bobby D. McKay is pastor.

**Cason Church, Nettleton**, will hold a women's day, How to Handle Things You Hate but Can't Change, on May 31 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sue Bohlin, Garland Texas, will be

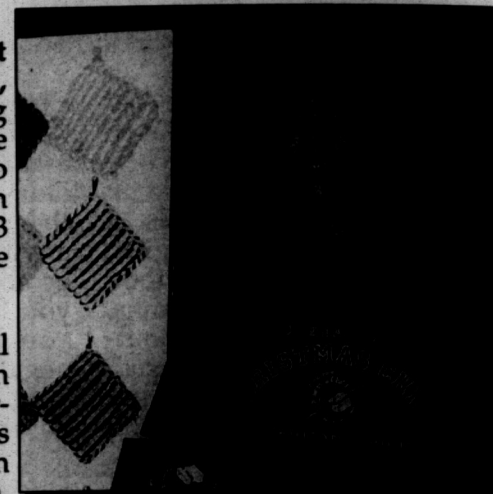
speaking. For more information, call (662) 651-4153 or (662) 256-4843.

**Central Church, McComb**, will hold Marvelous Monday's at 7 p.m. throughout the month of May. Those preaching are Paul Blanchard, Winston Baptist Association; Jim Futral, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board; Mickey Dalrymple, Fairview Church, Columbus; and Sonny Adkins, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Tracey Hipps is pastor.

**Lisa Jacks, Pleasant Grove Church, Woodland**, used her hobby of making pot holders for missions. She sold enough pot holders to fill six boxes for Operation Christmas Child. A total of 43 boxes were sent from the church. Jeff Gilder is pastor.

**Alcorn Association** will hold a workshop for Church librarians and others interested in promotion type tips on May 6, from 9 a.m.-noon at First Church, Corinth. Instructor for the workshop

will be Eva Nell Hunter, Library Director, Central Church, Decatur, Ala. Hunter will be showing tips on how to prepare a bulletin board, poster or display, or make letters for a sign. Reservations can be made by calling the church office at (662) 286-2208. The workshop is free and no lunch will be served. For further information, contact Sandra Fitts, at (662) 287-4084.



Lisa Jacks



Bible Drill Participants of Coldwater Church, Philadelphia

The children of Coldwater Church, Philadelphia, were superior in church, associational,



Spring Hill Church Groundbreaking, Waterford

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**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF** Columbus, Miss., is currently accepting resumes for the position of Interim Director of preschool and children's ministries. Please mail resumes to P.O. Box 829, Columbus, MS 39703, attn: Robyn Gaydon.

**FREDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH IN NEW** Albany, Miss., is searching for a minister of music. Please mail resume to 1616 CR 86, New Albany, MS 38652 or email Brother

Mike Mathena at mike2@datalane.net.

**SLAYDEN BAPTIST CHURCH, SLAYDEN**, Miss., (Marshall Association) is seeking an interim music/worship leader. Please contact the church office at (662) 252-4559.

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OLOH:** Full-time minister of youth and education. Send resume with photo to personnel committee, First Baptist Church of Oloh, 36 Oloh Church Road, Sumrall, MS 39482.

**Hillcrest Baptist Church**  
5450 Terry Road Jackson, MS 39272

www.hillcrestbyram.org

**Spring Renewal Weekend**

May 9 - 11, 2003

Speaker: Dr. Al Meredith

Dr. Meredith is the senior pastor of Wedgwood Baptist Church in Fort Worth, TX.

Praise & Worship Leader: Joey Williams

Mr. Williams currently serves as Worship Leader at Wildwood Baptist Church in Clinton.

May 9th - 7 p.m.

**How to Burn Without Burning Out**

May 10th - 7 p.m.

**How to Reach the Post Modern Generation**

May 11th - 10:25 a.m.

**When Life Falls Apart: The Wedgwood Story**

Children's Renewal  
1st - 6th grade

"KIDS FOR JESUS"  
JESUS FOR KIDS

For more information call  
(601) 372-0132

Ministry Leader: Frank Childs  
"Taking Away the Weight"  
Puppets, Drama, & Skits



What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

# HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

May 1, 2003

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

## Collegiates on Mission

Mississippi • COM

New Orleans Board

May 23-26

\$30

Collegiates will work with a variety of ministries in the French Quarter & surrounding area.

## Book-Link

A VOLUNTEER MINISTRY OF THE NATIONAL FELLOWSHIP OF BAPTIST EDUCATORS  
AND THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION BOARD ASSISTING THE  
INTERNATIONAL MISSION BOARD OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

*Our mission is:* to collect, pack, and ship Christian study tools and Bibles to Baptist missionaries, theological students, and national pastors in developing countries.

**For further information:** Book-Link, c/o Men's Ministry Department, PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205-0530 or call 601-968-3800

### Who Can Help?

RAs • GAs • WMU  
Men's Ministry Groups  
Individuals

### What Can You Do?

Pray • Donate • Give  
Volunteer

## Mission Possible

### ALT - Garaywa May 16-17

"Mission Possible" is the Mississippi WMU theme for Leadership Development in 2003. Come prepare for this year's "assignment" through Associational WMU Leadership Training. Preregistration is required. For more information, contact the state WMU office at 1-800-748-1651, ext. 316.

## Perry Association Missions Blitz

June 23-28

- **WHO?** Mission volunteers of all ages (adult, collegiate, youth, children).
- **WHAT?** A Missions Blitz sponsored by the Perry Association in partnership with Mississippi WMU. During this week volunteers will participate in a variety of ministry projects (ex: VBS, BYBC, prayerwalking, door-to-door outreach, block parties, light construction, and "acts of kindness" such as oil changes, apartment cleanup, and community cleanup).  
There will be a *Family Missions* emphasis on Saturday, June 28. Parents, grandparents, and etc.... are encouraged to participate with their children/grandchildren in family projects on Saturday.
- **WHEN?** The Missions Blitz begins on Sunday and concludes on Saturday. The *Family Missions* emphasis will take place on Saturday, June 28.
- **WHERE?** Ministry projects will be held all over the Perry County area.
- **HOW much does it COST?** A \$25 per person ministry fee with a maximum \$50 per family. Volunteers will provide their own housing, meals, and transportation. (Some meals will be provided and housing options are listed in the registration packet.) Participants volunteering only during the *Family Missions* emphasis on Saturday will pay \$5 per person or a maximum of \$15 per family (this includes lunch).
- **HOW to Register?** To receive a registration packet with more information, please contact the Mississippi WMU office at 1-800-748-1651 or E-mail [tanderson@mbcb.org](mailto:tanderson@mbcb.org). The **DEADLINE to register is June 6**. You may contact the on-site coordinator, Buddy Keyes, at FBC, Richton (601-788-9607).

## Singles RETREATS

CONCURRENT

### "Magnifying the Oneness in Jesus"

May 24-26, Gulfshore Baptist Assembly

Conferences; Concert by Lion's Roar Band, Biloxi;  
Speakers:-Bettye Coward, Blue Mountain College and  
Randy Davis, Hunter Street Baptist Church, Birmingham;  
and much more!

### "Fun Time Under the Son"

(for 20 somethings)

### May 24-26, Gulfshore Baptist Assembly

Break-Out times; praise service w/Ninth Hour Band;  
Special guest, Stacy Andrews, Madison

For info: Contact the Discipleship & Family Ministry  
Dept. at 1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3283



# Mississippi CWJC Retreat



June 27-28

Friday 5:30 p.m. - noon Saturday

Camp Garaywa

**For CWJC Leadership,  
Volunteers & Supporters**

Cost: \$48 per person  
(includes 1 night lodging and 3 meals)

## CWJC Retreat Registration Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (day) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (night) \_\_\_\_\_

CWJC Site \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to MBCB  
and memo CWJC Retreat.

Mail to:

Mississippi WMU CWJ Retreat  
PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205

## Bivocational Pastor and Smaller Church Membership

(less than 175 in Sunday School enrollment)

### Sunday School Director Training Conference



For more info, contact the Pastor/Leadership Development at  
1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3305

## Under the influence

### Mississippi Baptist Youth Night

Mississippi Coliseum, Jackson • July 25, 2003 • 6:30-9:00 p.m.



**Stuart Hall**  
Speaker



**Jake Gullede**  
Worship Leader

Sponsored by the Youth Ministry Team, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

## With All My Heart



### You are invited to the Sisters Who Care House Party

This house party is for all women ... bring a  
sister that's a different culture from you.

May 23-24, 2003 • Patterson Place  
Camp Garaywa, Clinton

**Becky Brown**  
Worship Leader

**Carol Mickel** will share her heart  
about her recent mission trips.

For more info, call the WMU Department at 1-800-748-1651 or in Jackson at 601-968-3800.

#### Friday, May 23

3:30 p.m.	Arrive in time for the "with all my heart tea party"	
	Prayer & Share "TeaTime" .....	Laura Leathers
5:00	Free Time to Fellowship, enjoy Camp Garaywa, walk, rest, etc.	
6:00	Evening Meal .....	Dining Hall
7:00	Welcome and Announcements .....	Kathy Burns
	Prayer and Missionary Prayer Calendar .....	Kay Cassibry
	Music Time .....	Becky Brown
	Testimony .....	Debora Joiner
	Special Music .....	Becky Brown
	Jail Ministry Testimony plus the How to... ..	Jane Blair
9:00	Prayer Groups	
10:00	Fellowship - Milk & Cookies	

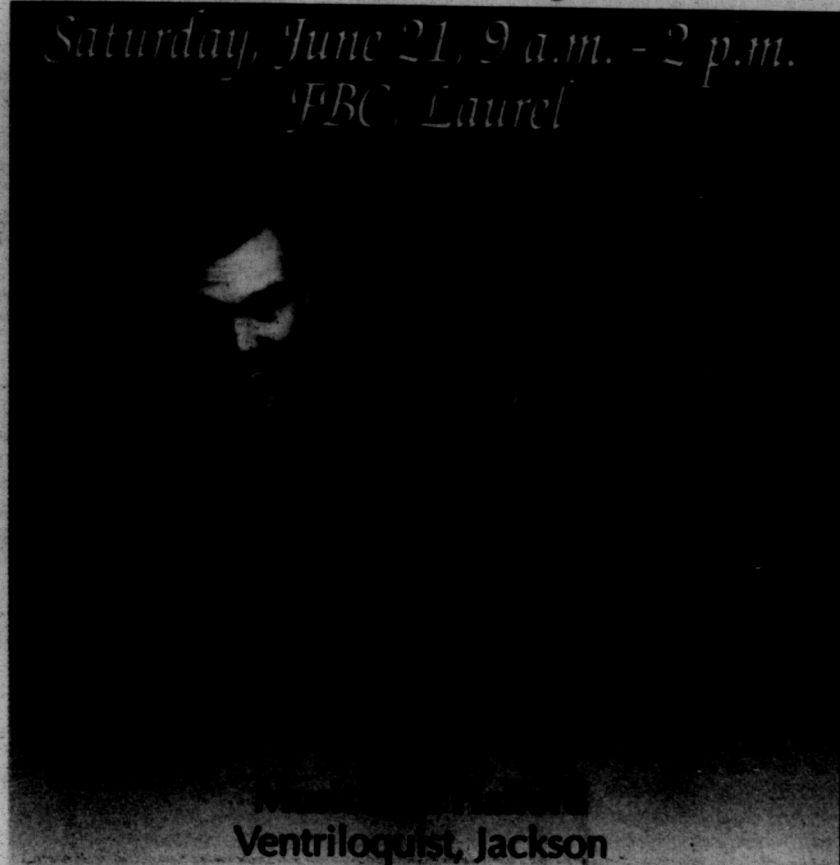
#### Saturday, May 24

8:00 a.m.	Break the Fast .....	Dining Hall
9:00	Good Morning Prayers and Missionary Prayer Calendar .....	Bonnie Hall
	Music & Testimony Time .....	Becky Brown
10:30	Break Refreshments	
11:00	Testimony .....	Carol Mickel
Noon	Lunch .....	Dining Hall
1:30 p.m.	Music Time .....	Becky Brown
2:00	Testimony and Special Music .....	Patrice Turner
2:45	Commitment Service .....	Becky & Kathy
3:00	On the Way Home Refreshments	



# Single Again Conference

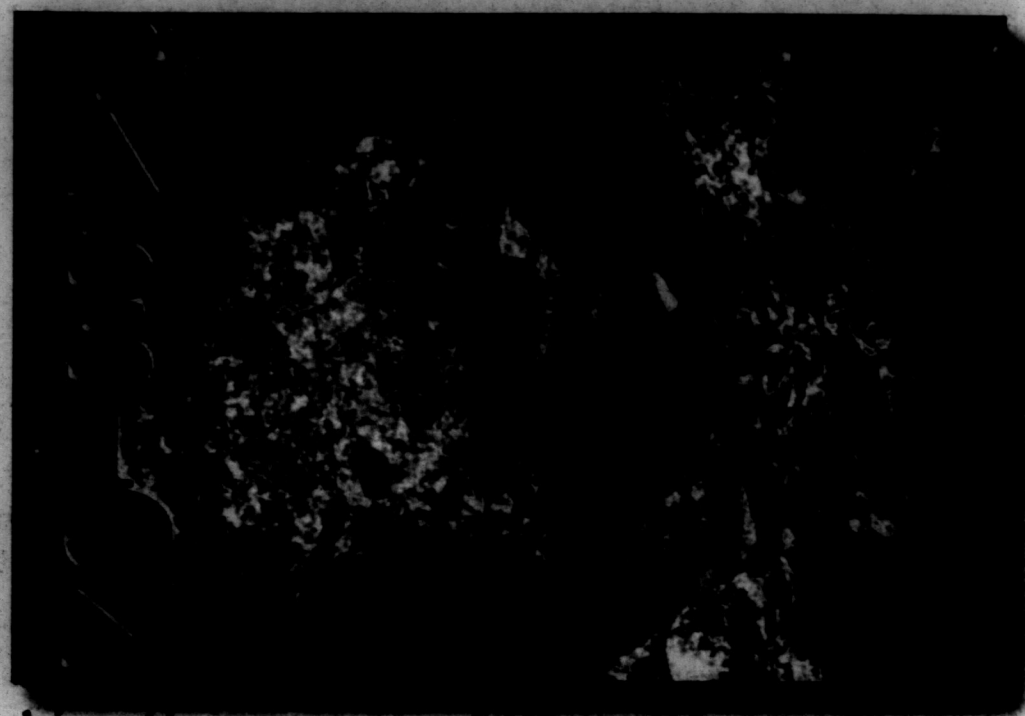
Saturday, June 21, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
FBC, Laurel



Ventriloquist, Jackson

Breakout Conferences for widows, divorced  
and single parents

For more information, contact Ronney Joe Webb, 601-649-5710



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Dave Hunt & Band  
Music Leaders

For more info, call  
the Discipleship &  
Family Ministry  
Department at  
1-800-748-1651 or  
in Jackson at  
601-292-3305.

"Stand in the Gap"

En La Brecha



## Hispanic Evangelism Conference

iusko

July 24-26, 2003

1-800-748-1651

For info: Call Sonny Adkins or David Alexander  
1-800-748-1651 or 601-968-3800

# CLM

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Summer 2003  
Church Library  
Ministry Conference

During the Growing  
Churches for Discipleship  
Conference

July 24-26, 2003  
Gallagher Baptist Assembly

Natchitoches, La.  
Library director  
First Baptist Church  
Natchitoches, La.



performing  
artists for  
GROWING  
CHURCHES  
THROUGH  
DISCIPLESHIP



# Pray this day for...

May 2-15, 2003

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 601-292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-7729 (PRAY)

"Prayer is not an emergency measure that we turn to when we have a problem. Real prayer is a part of our constant communion with God and worship of God." Warren W. Wiersbe

For: (1) Edwina Robinson Special Day Offering; (2) Christian Home Week, 4th - 11th (D&FM Emphasis); (3) The Rome, Italy, Team asks for prayer that the partner groups joining them in ministry will see the vision of reaching people from countries closed to the gospel.

For: (1) Mother's Day; (2) Baptist Children's Village Special Day Offering; (3) Pray a historic vote to begin the first-ever IMB Mission Board of the Romanian Baptist Union at their May Conference. Pray that the national believers and pastors will see the importance of such a step and vote for it.

The Malaysia government has banned 35 Christian books, including the Iban translation of the Bible. Possession can result in a three-year jail term or a \$5,320 fine. The Ibans, a people group in eastern Malaysia, have experienced great Christian growth. Pray for the overturn of this ban.

For: (1) Large Church Ministers of Education Meeting, Garaywa; (2) National elections in Nigeria where Baptist President Olusegun Obasanjo is seeking a second term. He has tried to bring about many reforms in his four years of leadership of the growing democracy. Pray for God's will concerning the outcome.

For: (1) Bivo Pastor/Smaller Membership Church S.S. Director Conference, East Philadelphia BC; (2) State Senior Adult Choir Festival, Country Woods BC, Jackson; (3) Pray that God will raise up leaders for the Ngonde women's groups in their churches in Malawi.

For: (1) ALT - Associational Leadership Training, Garaywa; (2) Senior Adult Conference, Gulfshore; (3) Pray for Kham Tibetan people living in a major city of western China, far from their homes. Pray that Christian workers would be able to meet them and share the Good News with them.

For: (1) Baptist Building AT HOME DAYS, 7th - 9th, (2) Sixty-nine percent of all Iraqi women are illiterate. Pray for educational opportunities to open up for women as the nation rebuilds. Pray that our people would have opportunities to build relationships as a result of this need.

The ProTeam in the Kansai area of Japan writes: "At least 600 Japanese kill themselves each week. Last year 30,000+ Japanese killed themselves. Japan has by far the highest suicide rate in the developed world. Pray for more Japanese Christians to be strong and stand and give a reason for the hope within them."

For: (1) Bivo Pastor/Smaller Membership Church S.S. Director Conference, Goodyear BC, Picayune (P/LD & SS); (2) Pray that the political leaders in Cote d'Ivoire would find a peace-bringing solution to their turmoil and that they would have the people's best interest at heart in their plans.

Thank God for the witness of Christian teachers in China. One recently ended a class discussion on death with: "I am not afraid to die. I am a Christian, and I know there is life after death." Pray that many Chinese university students will hear the Good News and choose life over death.

For: (1) State Handbell Festival, Gulfshore, 6 pm, 2nd - 1:30 p.m., 3rd (CM); (2) Witnessing Through Media, Colonial Heights BC, Jackson, 6 p.m. 2nd - 3:15 p.m., 3rd (CM); (3) Pray for Governor Bruce Dinwiddie of the Cayman Islands (north-western Caribbean Sea).

The Nanjing Theological Seminary has given approval for the Chinese International Baptist Press in Hong Kong to give their newly translated set of four Master's books to the 2003 seminary graduates. There are 56 graduates. Pray that these materials will be used effectively in training more disciples throughout China.

Ralph Green, of Littleton, N.H., is a church planting missionary in New Hampshire. Since the beginning of the church plant, there have been 10 (+) professions of faith and attendance has grown to 40 on Sundays. Pray for the discipleship process and upcoming baptisms.

Ken Horst is lead chaplain at the Tuscaloosa, Ala., Fire and Rescue Service. Pray for strength as he ministers through their crisis-based ministry to those hurting and experiencing stress and for wisdom as they expand into new areas of ministry.

Take a moment to send a card to encourage the children of our missionaries!



2-83 MISS ALAINA BAKER

Parents: Kenneth & Lynn, Dentistry

3-85 MISS HEATHER BROWN

Parents: John & Claudia, General Evangelism

4-83 MISS TABITHA FOX

Parents: Thomas & Tammy, General Evangelism

11-87 MISS ANDREA HENDRICKS

Parents: Larry & Mary, General Evangelism

13-89 MR. JOSHUA BROWN

Parents: John & Claudia, General Evangelism

13-85 MISS RACHEL L. GRAVES

Parents: Edgar & Marilyn, General Evangelism

17-99 MISS ABIGAIL C. HATHCOCK

Parents: Kenneth & Kimberly, Student Evangelism

For more information, please send all to:

Child's name and parent's name  
MBCB Stewardship Dept., PO Box 530  
Jackson MS 39205



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Cost \$5 at the door  
7:00 p.m.  
May 16, 2003

**Morrison Heights Baptist Church,**  
Clinton, Miss

# HOUSE TOPS.



## BAPTIST COLLEGE & SEMINARY NEWS

**William Carey College (WCC)** will present the Pine Belt Area Alumni Family Fun and Fellowship Picnic at Kamper Park Zoo Pavillion on April 26 from 3-5 p.m. Alumni and friends of the college are invited to attend and bring their families. For more information, call (601) 318-6103 or (601) 318-6165.

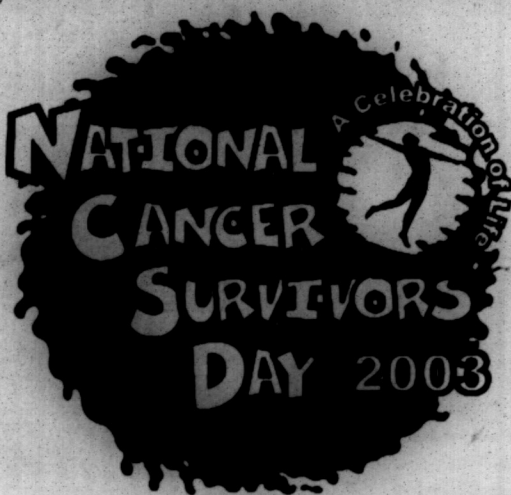
The **Mississippi College (MC) Debate Team** traveled to the International Public Debate Association Championships, Louisiana Tech University, April 11-13 where Lindsey Oswalt, Clinton, made it to the championship match of the Varsity Debate competition. Josh Kyle, Clinton, also excelled in the Varsity division for the Choctaws. Kyle finished 10th in the Speaker Award competition.

**Blue Mountain College (BMC)** is currently accepting applications for computer application intersession courses offered during May. The May intersession courses will meet for two weeks Monday-Friday, May 5-16. For more information, call (662) 685-4771 Ext., 135 or 123, or (662) 685-4771 Ext. 171.

**Mary Stewart**, associate professor of nursing at William Carey College (WCC), received a \$1,000 Award for Scholarly Writing from the Arthur L. Davis Publishing Agency, Inc. on behalf of the Mississippi Nurses Association (MNA). Stewart will officially receive the award at the Foundation's Celebrity Chef Benefit Dinner, Jackson, on May 17.



MISSISSIPPI  
BAPTISTS



### CANCER SURVIVORS DAY

SUNDAY, JUNE 1 • 2:00 PM  
HEDERMAN CANCER CENTER

Food • Entertainment • Door Prizes  
Free Parking at the Colonnades Medical Office Building

GUEST SPEAKER: Jan Dravecky  
Wife of baseball's Dave Dravecky

*This special celebration is to honor cancer survivors, their families and friends. We also honor those healthcare professionals working with persons with cancer.*

To register or for more information, call 918-6262 or 1-800-918-6262

**Baptist**  
CANCER SERVICES

## REVIVAL & HOMECOMING DATES

**Trinity, Meridian:** May 4-7; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Annis Shorrosh, evangelist.

**Carmel, Monticello:** May 4; worship, 11 a.m.; dinner on the grounds; Harold E. O'Chester, Great Hills Church, Austin, Texas, speaking; Rodger Collins, pastor.

**Shiloh, Vaiden:** May 25; worship, 11 a.m.; lunch will follow.

**Shiloh, Vaiden:** May 30-June 1; Fri. and Sat., 7 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m.; Sonny Adkins, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, evangelist; Doug Warren, pastor, music. All are welcome.

**Indian Springs, Laurel:** May 4; Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m.; dinner on the grounds, 11:30 a.m.;

for more information, call (601) 428-1279 or (601) 428-5563.

**Calvary, New Augusta:** May 4-7; nightly, 7 p.m.; Randall Creel, evangelist; Keith Clifton, music; Steve Lloyd, pastor.

**Calvary, New Augusta:** June 1; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; lunch at noon; afternoon music.

**New Salem, McCall Creek:** May 4; worship, 10:30 a.m., Leon Johnson, former pastor, preaching; a covered dish lunch will follow; N. F. Greer, pastor.

**Bellevue, Hattiesburg:** May 4-7; Sunday, 10:15 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Grady Parker, 19th Avenue, Hattiesburg, speaking; Phillip Butler, First, Sumrall, music; Dewey Smith, pastor.

## OBITUARY

**Robert J. "Bob" Sanderson**, 71, died on April 14, 2003. Funeral services were held at Bethel Church, Poplarville, April 16 with burial in Waynesboro on April 17.

Sanderson was licensed in 1948 and ordained in 1952 by his home church, Bethel



Sanderson

Church. He pastored Mississippi churches, as well as churches in Louisiana, Florida, and Georgia. He retired from the pastorate in 1996 and served two years as director of missions for the Scott and Newton Baptist Association before retiring in Wayne County.

Survivors include wife, Amy May Sanderson; children, Bonnie Britton, Columbus, Ga., Robert J. Sanderson, Jr., Columbus, Miss., Beth Havard, Mobile, Ala., Tim Sanderson, Medina, Tenn.; two daughters-in-law and two sons-in-law; nine grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; one sister and one brother.

The family requests in lieu of flowers, gifts may be made to the Bethel Church Building Fund, Poplarville; Jimmy Knight Evangelistic Association; and the Gideons International.

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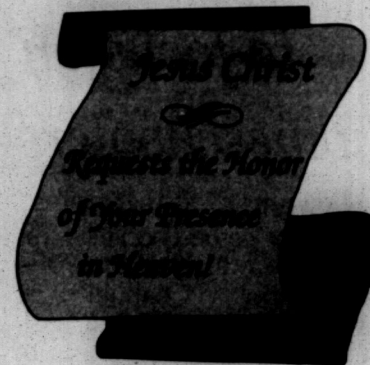
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(*I believe in Jesus.*)
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relationship with him.  
(*I receive Christ as my  
Savior and Lord.*)

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## New web site to focus on homeschoolers

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LifeWay will also offer a Homeschool Family Vacation at both of their Ridgcrest, N.C., and Glorieta, N.M., conference centers in August. For more information, contact (615) 251-2065 or visit [www.lifeway.com/conferencecenters](http://www.lifeway.com/conferencecenters).

# Shorter College breaks from Ga. convention

ROME, Ga. (BP) — Shorter College wasted no time after an April 23 court ruling in breaking its ties with the Georgia Baptist Convention (GBC). The ruling, in DeKalb County Superior Court, had affirmed that the convention has the right to elect Shorter's trustees and, in seemingly contradictory fashion, that the college could proceed with transferring its assets, estimated at nearly \$50 million, to a newly Shorter College Foundation.

The foundation will elect its own trustees, thus ending the college's official ties to the Georgia convention.

The superior court judge, Daniel M. Coursey Jr., had stated in an earlier hearing that the likely next stop in the dispute is the Georgia Supreme Court.

The college, founded in 1873 and affiliated with the Georgia convention since 1959, has 2,100 students at its Rome, Ga., campus.

Shorter's president is Ed Schrader, a native Mississippian and graduate of Millsaps College

in Jackson. He reiterated to the Rome News-Tribune newspaper his contention that the college's break with the Georgia convention was necessary for maintaining the college's accreditation with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

A March 2002 Southern Association of Colleges and Schools report had asserted that "undue pressure is being placed on the Board of Trustees by an outside agency, namely the Georgia Baptist Convention" and recommended a change in the trustee election process.

Shorter's accreditation was renewed late last year. Schrader told the Rome News-Tribune April 23 that "we were reaccredited based on the reorganization of [the] college." He told the newspaper the following day, "This puts us in complete compliance with SACS."

The Georgia convention, in an April 24 statement after Shorter's break from the convention, stated, "The decision by Shorter to dissolve the col-

lege within mere hours of the court's ruling — while the case is still pending — is truly alarming and risky for Shorter.

"It's hard to believe that a relationship that began with the founding of the school and that has blossomed over the last 45 years could be wiped out in a matter of hours," the GBC said. The "rash actions taken by a small group at Shorter most certainly place the college, its students and its financial viability at risk."

"The case continues and we believe other actions taken by Shorter will also be declared void," the convention said.

Schrader told the Rome News-Tribune, meanwhile, "Our college has had a long-standing relationship with the GBC, and we are proud of the heritage of that relationship. It is our hope that we will maintain the relationship, even in light of the court's ruling, and work together to find common ground and move forward in a spirit of cooperation."

The Georgia convention, in a news release last December, had recounted that in 1959 — "at the college's request" — the convention "assumed ownership of the school to help it avoid financial ruin. Since taking ownership, the GBC has invested nearly \$26 million in Shorter, and the school has thrived, having recently been ranked by US News & World Report as one of the South's top 20 comprehensive liberal arts colleges."

Still in court is the issue of \$9 million in funding from Georgia Baptists frozen by action of the convention. A college lawsuit to obtain the \$9 million prompted a countersuit by the convention that was been joined by several Shorter trustees.

The Georgia convention, in its news release last December, said the countersuit sought to prevent "a scheme and conspiracy by Shorter's president and members of its board of trustees to illegally convert, take over and steal Shorter from the GBC."

## NAMES IN THE NEWS



Hardy Church, Grenada

Hardy Church, Grenada, missions groups visited the International Seaman's Center, Gulfport. The group toured the facilities and donated two boxes of person-

al items to give to the seamen and truckers during their visit to the center.

Faith Church, Hickory Flat, recently dedicated a new



Faith Church, Hickory Flat

sign. Chris Simpson is pictured affixing a plaque dedicating the sign to her husband, the late Jim Simpson, longtime church leader. Larry West is pastor.

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# THE VILLAGE VIEW



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## Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

JANUARY 1 - 15, 2003

### MEMORIALS

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Dr. Raanne Tindle  
Nora Betty Haden Downs  
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# FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

## Establishing Godly Standards for My Family

Jeremiah 35:1-2, 5-10, 12-19

By Lori Clendinning

Every family has certain routines and standards for behavior. For instance, in our family, it's understood that the car does not leave the driveway until everyone's seat belts are fastened. After our meals, we all carry our plates into the kitchen, rinse them, and place them into the dishwasher, rather than leaving the entire task for Mom. Whenever weather warning sirens sound, as they did last Thursday night, our children know to quickly get to their places within an interior bathroom, staying there until all is clear.

Routines and standards like these are established within families for many reasons, but the primary ones are for safety and consideration. First of all, God expects His people to follow His

standards. He commands us throughout His word to live differently from the world. He expects His children to obey Him instead of giving in to cultural influence. This month's lessons will help us explore how our families can be transformed by God's grace. Whenever God's grace impacts our families, attitudes and actions change.

In the first of four lessons we learn of God's warning of coming judgment because of His people's sins. The prophet Jeremiah preached to the people of Judah in the late seventh and early sixth centuries B.C. The Book of Jeremiah is filled with protests and rebukes as he cried out against the unfaithfulness of God's covenant people. Israel had broken her commitment to God and Jeremiah's lament for the people continues



Clendinning

through 34 chapters.

Finally, in chapter 35, Jeremiah points to the Recabite family's dedication in faithfully obeying the Lord's ways instead of giving in to cultural influences. The Recabites modeled an obedient lifestyle. They were descendants of Jonadab, son of Recab. Jonadab

supported Jehu when he overthrew the house of Ahab (2 Kings 10:15-17). The Recabites were distinctly known for their nomadic lifestyle and their opposition to all aspects of settled living. Thus, they refused to cultivate grapes or to drink wine. By strictly adhering to Jonadab's fatherly instructions, the Recabites guarded against becoming involved in Baal worship when the Israelites settled in Canaan and began to accept Canaanite idolatry.

The Lord's command to Jeremiah to give wine to the Recabites was designed to test their faithfulness and thus serve as a model for Judah. The Recabites completely obeyed their father's commands, loyally upholding them through generations for approximately

two and a half centuries. As a powerful model of obedience, the Recabites demonstrate that godly families can have a positive influence on society for generations.

The Recabite family's careful obedience to the standards set forth by their long-deceased ancestor is in stark contrast to the persistent disobedience of Judah to the commands of the living Lord. It's not that the Lord wanted Judah to adopt the nomadic ways of the Recabites, but rather follow their example of loyal obedience.

The Recabites received a blessing and a promise from the Lord regarding their permanent position in standing before the Lord and serving Him. Although the Scripture passage does not specifically state what service the Recabites would perform, later tradition holds that they were in temple service.

Out of their obedience came great blessing in the opportunity of serving God. Another blessing that came from their faithful following of the Lord's commands was the promise that the Recabites would not be destroyed as a family. A descendant of Recab is referred to in

Nehemiah 3:14, faithfully serving the Lord nearly 150 years after this passage in Jeremiah.

Thousands of years later, God still expects His people to follow His standards. Non-believing families generally choose to blend with society around them, following worldly standards and setting secular goals. However, God commands His children to be different from the world, expecting us to obey Him instead of giving in to worldly influences. Like the Recabites, we are expected to model an obedient lifestyle.

The importance of establishing and modeling godly, enduring standards for our families cannot be stressed enough. God expects our Christian families to be different from other non-believing families. We are to consistently teach our children that which God expects. Just like the Recabites, one faithful, godly family can positively influence a society for generations. May we all rise to His standards and be as faithful as the Recabites!

Clendinning is member of First Church, Brandon.

# EXPLORE THE BIBLE

## Trust God in Times of Need

I Kings 17:1-4, 7-16

By Harold Simmons

**Introduction:** Omri became the king of Israel. He became so well known that the Assyrians called Israel (the Northern Kingdom) Omri-land for over a hundred years after his death. Yet from the scriptural point of view, only 14 verses are used in I Kings to describe his reign. He was the founder of the Omride dynasty which ruled until 842 B.C. He bought the hill of Samaria and founded a new capital for the Northern Kingdom. The Biblical account says that Omri "walked in all the ways of Jeroboam son of Nabat and in his sin." This indicates that Omri worshipped at the shrines that Jeroboam set up in Dan and Bethel which were dedicated to the golden calf idols. Although Omri did not worship

Baal, his policies allowed Baalism to be active enough that it was going to become religio licita, or a legal religion of the kingdom.

When Ahab became king, he took Jezebel as his wife. This union also brought Baalism into Israel, for Ahab built a temple of Baal in Samaria. At this point the plot thickens and disaster is ahead for Israel. God sends Elijah to Ahab. Elijah follows the Lord's instructions, believes the Lord's promises, and acts on them.

Following the Lord's Instructions (I Kings 17: 1-4). Following the Lord's instructions, Elijah traveled from Gilead, east of the Jordan, to speak with Ahab and let him know what the Lord is about to



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do. Elijah proclaims that the Lord is alive but does not add the obvious that Baal is inanimate. Also, the God that is alive has the power to move and to do (act). That God declares His power and states that there will not be rain for several years except by His word (at His pleasure). He is showing His power over nature. Baalites claimed that Baal brought the life-giving rain.

After Elijah obeyed God and delivered the message, God instructed him to go to a ravine and remain there. God promised to give him water and feed him via the ravens. Elijah believed God and put his life entirely in God's hands. Miraculously, the water continued in the little stream and the ravens came to feed Elijah. God provided for His servant and is just as faithful to keep His promises today.

**Believe the Lord's Promises (I Kings 17: 7-14).** Verse 7 says

that "some time later the brook dried up." The Hebrew text has "at the end of days the brook dried up." This is an expression to show an indeterminate number of days. The amount of time is not important but that God gave further instructions to Elijah is. The events that God laid out were detailed but it was very hard to believe that every detail would work out just as God said. Elijah had great faith in God and did exactly as God said.

Elijah found the widow and made two requests of her. "Would you bring me some water?" Water was a precious commodity especially during a severe drought. The widow was willing to share whatever water she could find. Elijah added, "And bring me, please, a piece of bread." The widow explained her dire circumstance to Elijah. He in turn told the widow of God's promise to supply her needs and that of her son. The widow had to act in faith and

bring Elijah bread first, before she and her son ate. Like the widow we can depend upon the Lord's promises.

**Act on the Lord's Promises (I Kings 17: 15-16).** The widow did exactly as the prophet told her. She acted upon the promise of God. The prophet had been the messenger but the promise was God's. In order to claim the promises of God, we must act upon what He tells us. God promises us eternal life if we believe on His son, Jesus. To receive a promise of God, we must respond to Him. God has made salvation available and everything is ready for our response. Dinner is ready and on the table, but unless we sit down and eat, we will only be hungry. This is true for every initiative of God. He first moves toward us and that expects a response. God's promises are on the table. Come and dine!

Simmons is the pastor of Hebron Church, Grenada.

# Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Herald is pleased to publish news items and photographs that tell about the activities of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication to The Baptist Herald must be in the form of a letter, (b) neatly printed, (c) typed, or (d) neatly handwritten. News items must be received by the deadline date. News items will be accepted over the phone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below and must be contained in the attached form or an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats,

please do not include the word "virus" in the subject line of the e-mail. Please do not include the address of the person submitting the news item in the e-mail.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital prints are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lit.

News items and photographs will be accepted for publication on a non-exclusive basis. The Baptist Herald reserves the right to use news items and photographs in any form and for any purpose.

News items and photographs should be sent to The Baptist Herald, P.O. Box 100, Jackson, Mississippi 39206. Phone: 601-955-3330. E-mail: [news@baptistherald.com](mailto:news@baptistherald.com)



# PRACTICAL PRINCIPLES



Christian Living

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Issue 4

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## 2003 LEGISLATIVE REPORT BY LEE YANCEY

With mud and dirt being slung everywhere in this election year, the one thing we are sure of is that the official dirt for the state of Mississippi is Natchez silt loam. These and other weighty matters were hashed out during the three-month session of the 2003 legislature. The 2003 legislative session came to a close April 6th with much ado about the budget. "We have borrowed from Peter to pay Paul and we have mugged John," said Senator David Jordan, D-Greenwood. "We have pretty well used up . . . our resources." In the fast and furious final days of the session, legislators voted and Governor Musgrove agreed to help fund the 3.6 billion dollar budget by spending all the money the state will collect in the coming year, instead of the 98



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percent that state law allows them to spend. The lawmakers gave themselves a one-year exemption while the state and national economies remain in a quagmire. Considering that this is an election year, raising taxes was not an option that our elected officials could stomach.

According to Representative Greg Snowden, R-Meridian, "Friday, April 4, was truly a chaotic day in the House of Representatives. With some members reluctant even to bring up for a vote, the question of whether to override or sustain Governor Musgrove's veto of HB 1036, a key budget bill, the House twice (once on a roll call and once by voice vote) defeated motions to adjourn sine die and thereby end the 90-day regular session without any further action at all. The ultimate result was HB 1667, which was finally agreed

to on Sunday morning only after late-night sessions in both chambers."

Governor Ronnie Musgrove was pleased with the state budget saying, "... We now have a budget that sets education as a priority, focuses on creating quality jobs, and protects Medicaid." This new budget plugs a \$300 million-plus budgetary hole with one-time monies and gives Medicaid a virtual blank check. The bad news or the worst news is that when legislators return in January, new and additional revenue of at least \$650 million will be needed just to keep up with the existing FY 2004 obligations and to meet built-in increases for the projected FY 2005 budget.

Voter ID died a hero's death almost surviving to the last minute. An early version of the bill suggested that voters show one of 18 forms of ID - anything from a driver's license to a gun permit to a food stamp card. Even then, if the voter did not have a suitable ID, he could sign a sworn statement affirming his identity.

The bill, divided largely along partisan lines, took a nosedive when it was revealed that the state would not lose the 34 million dollars in federal funding if the bill did not pass. Senator Hob Bryan, D-Amory, said that his objection to voter ID was that it was a method of creating confusion at the polls. Most Democrats say voter ID would be more likely to keep their supporters from the polls than Republicans. Senator Richard White, R-Terry, said that the state needs to make voters prove they are who they say they are. Lt. Governor Amy Tuck says she supports voter identification. "I supported it as a state senator when I was a Democrat. When you do something as basic as renting a movie, you have to show some form of identification," says Tuck.

The Legislature approved

measures that would appropriate funds to repair or construct state-owned facilities including university campuses and to enhance the economic development of the state. Northrup Grumman-

the Choose Life tag bill that removed the restrictions placed on Pregnancy Resource Centers in spending the monies provided by the sale of the Choose Life car tag. To date, more than \$60 thousand has been raised to help Pregnancy Resource Centers assist women choose life for their unborn babies.

The bill that would have allowed gaming courses to be taught in community colleges and universities died in committee, and once again Mississippi Baptists are very grateful. The legislature also made it clear that it backs our troops in Iraq, more than 2,000 state residents at the latest count.

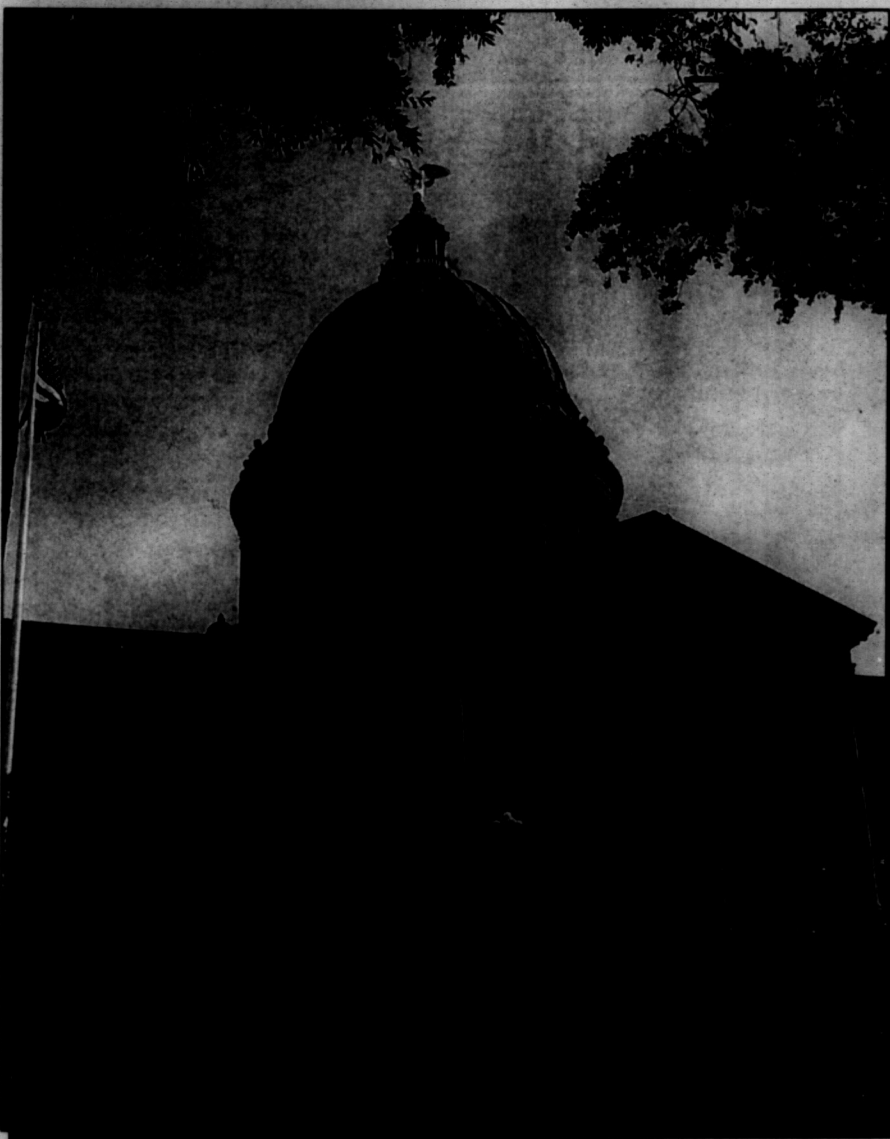
This year is a year of transition in the legislature. Speaker Tim Ford is stepping down and the race is on to find his replacement. Lt. Governor Amy Tuck has switched parties and faces a tough field of opponents while Governor Musgrove faces stiff opposition from Republican Haley Barbour. Ten senators retired from the senate and several others from the house. There may well be a huge turnover in our elected officials this November. The two-party system is growing in the legislature and is positioning the Black Caucus to powerbroker status. Mississippi is growing and changing in many ways, thankfully, yet we still have work to do.



Ingalls, a ship building company in Pascagoula, will benefit by the issuance of bonds to fund improvements there. Another bill should boost the state's corn and soybean farmers with incentives to encourage the production of ethanol and other alternative fuels. An additional \$20 million was set aside for the purpose of replacing and repairing dangerous bridges in Mississippi.

Significant legislation that was approved during the session included setting aside 62 percent of the state's budget for all levels of education, from kindergarten through universities. Governor Musgrove also signed a "no-call" bill that limits telemarketers from blocking their identification from Caller ID services, limits the calls from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., and bans telephone solicitations on Sunday. Hallelujah, a day of rest from the telemarketers!

An amendment was made to



Mississippi State Capitol, Jackson

If you are interested in receiving Christian Action Commission updates via the internet and will share this information with friends and your church, please e-mail us at [rwwood@mbch.org](mailto:rwwood@mbch.org). Include your name, address, phone number and church name.



## N.C. church baptizes homosexuals

CONCORD, N.C. (BP) — A North Carolina Baptist church may be removed from its association for baptizing two homosexual men. The Cabarrus Baptist Association will meet to discuss the possible expulsion of McGill Church for baptizing the men in March, The Charlotte Observer reported.

The controversy centers on whether the men were repentant before they were baptized, Cabarrus Director of Missions Randy Wadford told the Observer. "It's understood that when a person comes to know Jesus Christ as their personal Savior, a conversion experience occurs, and repentance takes place in the life of the person," he said.

However, McGill Church pastor Steve Ayers said churches should be more inclusive. "I think salvation is between them and God," he told the newspaper. "I'm not going to exclude anybody from God's Kingdom. Our business is to love and follow [Jesus'] example. That's all."

## Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx  
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DGNO, NQQ BG

KGTKQG; DGNORGA, T

GNOLD, NAH NQQ LDNL

LDGOGZA ZC: NAH QGL

LDG QTOH ETH UG

MZLAGCC NENZACL BTB,

LDG QTOH POTY DZC

DTQB LGYKQG.

YZSND TAG: LMT

Clue: E = G

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Jonah 2:7

# Baptists, Boy Scouts celebrate partnership

RIDGECREST, N.C. (BP) — Southern Baptists and the Boy Scouts of America have worked through the Association of Baptists for Scouting for almost 50 years, so it was a reunion of sorts when more than 120 Scout leaders from 12 states and various Baptist denominations met in early April at LifeWay Ridgecrest Conference Center.

The conference, titled God and Country, provided innovative ways Baptists can positively influence America's youth from elementary to high school through Cub Scout packs and Boy Scout troops.

The weekend brought pastors and scout leaders together to find ways for local churches to encourage the growth of Boy Scout troops. Several pastors committed to add either Boy Scout troops or Venturing programs in their churches. Venturing is a coeducational program for youth between the ages of 14-20.

There are more than 90,000 Baptist congregations (SBC and non-SBC) in the United States and approximately 5,000 have Scouting programs, according to Don York, director of the relationships division of the Boy Scouts of America.

Several speakers discussed the outreach possibilities Scouting offers churches. R. Chip Turner, vice president of FamilyNet of Ft. Worth, Texas, said Scouting and Baptist churches have a long history together.

"Dr. George Truett of First Baptist Dallas endorsed the concept of Scouting in churches in 1924, but we still have a lot to do to reach more youth."

David Hansley, president of the Association of Baptists for Scouting, told attendees, "You've got to get into the pastors and youth ministers to let them see the benefits of Scouting. You begin by sitting down with the pastor and explaining the program. Most pastors when they see the benefits of Scouting will catch the vision. There are too many boys to reach. It's a great outreach if the churches will just take it and run."

Retired Navy Commander Robert Fant Jr. a former Vietnam POW, reiterated the importance of churches and Scouting.

"When I was captured, the first thing I concentrated on was the Lord's Prayer, then the 23rd Psalm. Soon after that I began con-



centrating on the Scout Law. It was these things I had learned at church and in Scouting that helped keep me going."

Fant's close friend, Bill Dukes, a Clemson, S.C., physician, added that he was always impressed with Fant on scout outings. "He may have been little compared to some of the other Scouts, but he had a drive and heart that allowed him to set the pace," Dukes said.

Dukes and his wife Sylvia became the first couple to receive the Silver Good Shepherd award. Dukes had previously received both the Good Shepherd award and Boy Scout of America Blue Ridge Council's Silver Beaver award for recognition of his work with Boy Scouts in the western North Carolina area.

In addition to the general sessions and specialized training, the conference also featured two banquets to honor recipients of the Good Shepherd Cross and Staff award. The award is a national recognition for adults who render outstanding service to Baptist youth through their church and the Boy Scouts of America. The award is given to either laypersons or pastors who

lead in the spiritual, physical, mental and moral development of youth.

This year 22 recipients were recognized for service to Baptist Scouting, with six of the recipients receiving Silver Good Shepherd awards representing at least 50 years of Scouting involvement. Several well-known men are former recipients of the award: LifeWay President James T. Draper Jr., Executive Committee President Morris Chapman, evangelist Billy Graham, former U.S. President Jimmy Carter and U.S. Senator Trent Lott of Mississippi.

Author and motivational speaker Zig Ziglar, a Yazoo City native, is slated to receive the honor later this year.

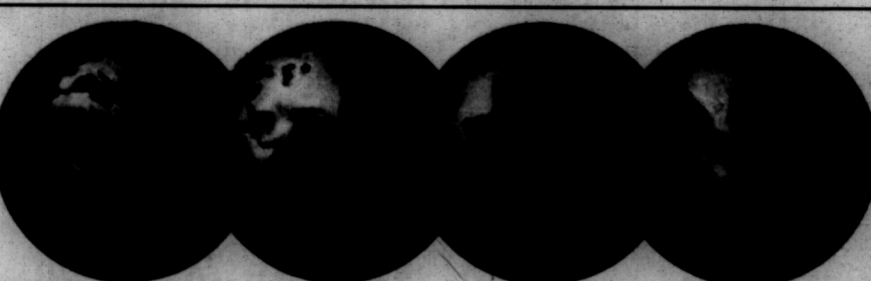
The union between Boy Scouts of America and Ridgecrest is becoming a tradition in its self. "It is a natural place for us to meet, it is geographically easy to get to and there are a large number of Baptists within 100 miles [of Ridgecrest]," said H. M. "Smokey" Eggers, former president and current Southern Baptist representative for the Association of Baptists for Scouting.

## Kingdom Family Rally to set tone for meeting

PHOENIX (BP) — The Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) 2003 annual meeting will be June 17-18 at the Phoenix Civic Plaza in Phoenix, Az., and the SBC's first-ever Kingdom Family Rally the evening prior to the start of the convention figures to set the tone for the meeting.

On the evening of June 16, during the closing session of the SBC Pastors' Conference, messages from family experts on how to strengthen families will culminate nearly three years of planning by the SBC Council of Family Life. The council will present a standard for all Christian families, described as the Seven Pillars of a Kingdom Family.

The rally will begin at 7:15 p.m. local time and will include appearances by Dennis and Barbara Rainey of FamilyLife Today; Tom Elliff, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church of Del City, Ok., and chairman of the SBC Council on Family



# KingdomFirst

MATTHEW 6:33

## Exalting the King, Expanding His Kingdom

Life, and his wife Jeannie; and recording artist Steve Green and his wife Marijean.

Speaker/author Beth Moore as well as James and Shirley Dobson of Focus on the Family in Colorado Springs, Co., are scheduled to speak via video. An address by Adrian Rogers,

pastor of Bellevue Church in Cordova, Tn., will immediately precede the rally.

The SBC Council on Family Life, LifeWay Christian Resources of the SBC and the SBC Pastors' Conference are sponsoring the rally. Jim Futral, executive director of the

Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, is a member of the Council on Family Life.

"At the rally, Southern Baptists will be introduced to a strategy which can strengthen existing families and virtually divorce-proof the families of the future," said Elliff. "Southern Baptists around the world will be encouraged to embrace with their hearts [the Seven Pillars of a Kingdom Family] as guiding principles for personal and family life." The Seven Pillars are:

- Honoring God's Authority.
- Respecting Human Life.
- Exercising Moral Purity.
- Serving My Church.
- Using Time Wisely.
- Practicing Biblical Stewardship.
- Sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

"From (this) pool comes our Sunday School teachers and workers, the deacons and other volunteer leaders in our churches," Elliff said.